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Abstract

Methods for bleaching cellulosic material such as cotton and wood pulp involve contacting the cellulosic material with a peroxide, oxygen or ozone bleaching agent, in the presence of a substituted guanadine-based additive. The substituted guanadine-based additive is suitably an alkyl guanadine, acyl guanadine or an alkyl acyl guanadine, although a range of other additives is described. When used in combination with a peroxy acid precursor to achieve further improved bleaching effect or a synergistic activation/acceleration effect. Examples of additives used include 1,1-dimethylguanadine sulphate and 1-acetylguanadine.